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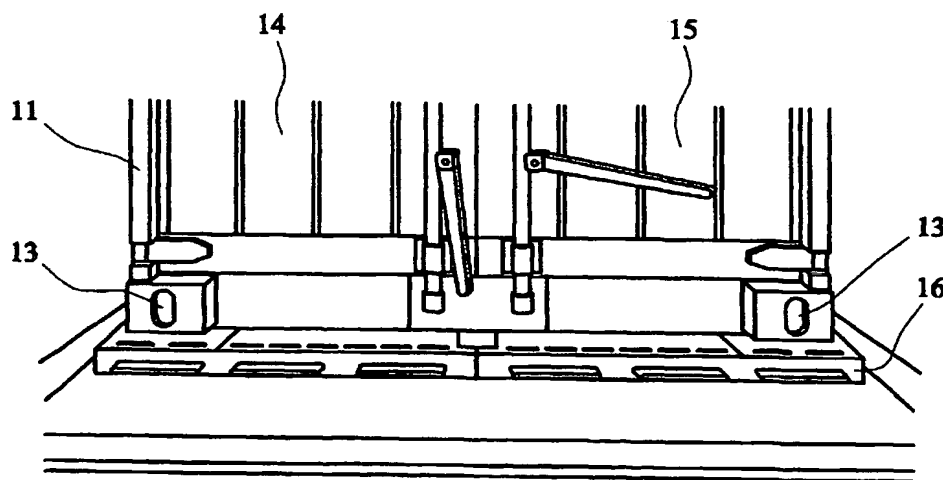
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SKID ASSEMBLY FOR FREIGHT CONTAINERS



(57) Abstract: A skid assembly (16) for securement to the underside of a freight container (11), in order to assist the slidable loading and unloading of the container relative to a loading platform (17), the skid assembly (16) being arranged to be capable of extending between a pair of lower corner fittings (13) and to be securable thereto in order to secure the skid assembly (16) to the underside of the container (11), in which the skid assembly comprises: an elongate support (20) having upper and lower support surfaces, and lower support surface being engageable with a loading platform (17), and the upper support surface being engageable with the underside of the container (11); and a pair of clamping devices (21) mounted one adjacent to each end of the elongate support (20) and engageable with a respective one of the pair of lower corner fittings (13) to secure the skid assembly (16) to the underside of the container (11).

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/GB 03/01660

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 B65D88/12 B65D88/14		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 B65D B64C		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 1 188 665 A (BOEING CO) 20 March 2002 (2002-03-20) column 4, line 13 - column 5, line 37 figures 1-3	1,2,4-6, 17
Y	-----	3
X	US 4 049 135 A (GLASSMEYER JOHN J) 20 September 1977 (1977-09-20) column 1, line 6 - column 3, line 49 figures 3,6	1,4,6
Y	US 4 747 504 A (DELKER GREGG A ET AL) 31 May 1988 (1988-05-31) abstract column 4, lines 51-55 claim 8	3
A	----- -/--	1,2
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex. </div>		
<div style="display: flex;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p>* Special categories of cited documents :</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> </div> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p> </div> </div>		
Date of the actual completion of the international search <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">2 September 2003</div>		Date of mailing of the international search report <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">04.02.2004</div>
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Kakoullis, M</div>

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,P	US 2003/021660 A1 (WELLS JAMES STERLING) 30 January 2003 (2003-01-30) page 2, paragraph 15-20 figures 2-4 -----	1,2,4-6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB 03/01660

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-7, 17

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-7,17

A skid assembly comprising a longitudinal strip of resiliently deformable material

2. claims: 8-10

A skid assembly fabricated in two parts

3. claims: 11-14

A skid assembly comprising lateral projections

4. claims: 15, 16

A skid assembly comprising clamping devices

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 1188665	A	20-03-2002	US 6427947 B1 CA 2356566 A1 EP 1188665 A1	06-08-2002 07-03-2002 20-03-2002
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US 4747504	A	31-05-1988	NONE	
US 2003021660	A1	30-01-2003	NONE	